

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

15. (Original) Means for the replacement of a section of a pipe of the primary circuit of a nuclear reactor cooled by pressurized water connecting a first and a second component of the primary circuit of the nuclear reactor comprising means for cutting out a section of the primary pipe which has to be replaced, means for supporting the end parts of a new replacement section in positions facing the ends of the remaining parts of the pipe, means for supporting the end parts of a new replacement section in positions facing the ends of the remaining parts of the pipe, means for bevel welding the end parts of a new replacement section of the primary pipe to the ends of the remaining parts of the primary pipe and handling means which can be used to remove the section of the primary pipe which has to be replaced and the new replacement section for positioning it in the welding position between the ends of the remaining parts of the pipe, wherein it additionally comprises means for working within the primary pipe and means for introducing the means for carrying out work into the primary pipe from one of the first and second components of the primary circuit of the nuclear reactor.

16. (Original) Means according to claim 15, wherein the means for carrying out work comprises a robot arm of the anthropomorphic type, a support for the means for carrying out work within the primary pipe comprising means for securing the robot arm and a carriage for moving the support and the robot arm within the primary pipe to which the support is secured, comprising two sets of wheels and drive motors providing a rotational drive to at least one wheel in each set of wheels of the carriage for moving it within the primary pipe.

17. (Original) Means according to claim 15, wherein the support comprises a structure for supporting the robot arm, two supporting shoes controlled by jacks and one locking shoe controlled by a jack which bear against opposite parts of the inner surface of the pipe.

18. (Original) Means according to claim 15, wherein the means for introducing the means for carrying out work into the pipe through a component of the primary circuit comprise a transfer surface for lateral movement in a horizontal plane on which there is movably mounted in a direction in the horizontal plane a supporting table and a lift for moving a supporting plate for the means for carrying out work borne on the supporting table in a vertical direction, the transfer surface being secured above a horizontal surface of the component of the primary circuit through which the means for carrying out work is introduced into the primary pipe, surrounding a vertical axis opening providing access to an internal part of the component of the primary circuit communicating with the inner part of the primary pipe.

19. (Original) Means according to claim 15 and also incorporating a support comprising an access gangway to a part communicating with the interior of the primary pipe of the component of the primary circuit.